

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Lansing Correctional Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: November 24, 2021

Re: Modified Operation and Suspended Visitation at Lansing Correctional Facility

I am writing today to update you as to how current staffing levels at the Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) may impact you. As our residents are experiencing, and undoubtedly their families are hearing, we continue to see a steady decline in the number of staff available to operate the facility on a given day or shift.

This decline has been steady throughout calendar year 2021 and the total vacancies has now doubled since the beginning of the summer. A major adjustment was made in July to move our staff from 8 to 12-hour shifts, which was done to sustain as normal of an operational schedule as possible and to provide staff needed time off. Months into that schedule, more staff have left, in part, due to the increasing hours worked each day and week, and we simply must make additional adjustments to facility operations.

The changes described here are not taken lightly, particularly given that the holiday season is upon us. If there were other options, we would implement them, but there are not.

Perhaps the most impactful operational change we are implementing will be a suspension of all in-person visitation at LCF. We simply cannot continue to staff this activity. The suspension of in-person visitation will take effect on Monday December 6, 2021.

We heard clearly from many of you how difficult the suspension of in-person visitation was upon residents and families during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. I expect that will be the same again, and wish that we could have at least made it through the holiday season before this became necessary. Regrettably we cannot.

Suspension of visitation is being accompanied by additional changes to facility operations that will impact each of you differently. The impact will vary based upon the housing unit in which the resident lives, staff call ins on a given day or shift, and additional resignations going forward in time if new hires do not increase. But in general, you should anticipate at least some of the following on a given day or shift, as well as additional changes as circumstances may require.

- The medium and maximum housing units will be on lockdown from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day
- Changes to schedules for time in day rooms and on the yard
- Programming provided on housing units (SAP, T4C, OWDS, etc.)

- Requests for books and legal material will be initiated via Form 9's
- Medical and behavioral health provided on housing units
- Chaplains will make rounds on housing units
- Canteen will be delivered to all residents
- Fresh Favorites and the meal of the month will continue to be offered and delivered

With these changes, we are also aligning available staff to sustain opportunities for residents who are working in private and correctional industries jobs, engaged in college classes and the welding program, and who work in Food Service, Laundry, Clinic and Canteen. Those who are participating in these activities have worked hard on individual behavior change to earn these opportunities. Recognizing that, and the impact on families who you may be sending a portion of your earnings to, we are making every effort possible to minimize the impact on these areas.

As I bring this message to a close, I want to advise you that we will return to a more normalized schedule of operations and activities at such time as our staffing at LCF allows. That said, given the current circumstances, we are likely to remain in this operational status for an extended period of time.

I appreciate your patience, cooperation and understanding as these changes are put in place at LCF.